

REMARKS

Applicant thanks the Examiner for carefully considering the present application. Please reconsider the present application in view of the above amendments and the following remarks.

Disposition of Claims

Claims 1-6 are currently pending in the present application. Claims 1 and 4 are independent claims. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4.

Objections to the Title

The title of the invention was objected to for not being sufficiently descriptive. The title has been amended to be more descriptive. Accordingly, withdrawal of this objection is respectfully requested.

Rejections Under 35 U.S.C. § 102

Claims 1-6 of the present application were rejected under U.S.C. § 102 (e) as being anticipated by U.S. Patent No. 6,947,165 ("Kataoka"). This rejection is respectfully traversed.

Claims 1 and 4 require, in part, "if the interrupt copy start command information is received while the print job data processing means operates, the copy control means for causing the print job data processing means to interrupt the processing being executed and then starting processing of waiting for an available storage area of a capacity required for executing the copy control processing to be formed in the data storage means, when an available storage area of the

capacity required for executing the copy control processing is formed, the copy control means for causing the print execution means to interrupt processing for the print data generated by the print job data processing means and then starting the copy control processing.”

In the copy control means of the claimed invention, if the interrupt copy start command information is received by the copy control means while the print job data processing means is operating, the copy control means makes the print job data processing means interrupt its operation, then waits until sufficient available storage area for executing the copy control processing is formed in the data storage means. Then, the copy control means makes the print execution means interrupt printing, at which point the copy control processing is initiated. In other words, the copy control means of the claimed invention interrupts the printing process and waits for sufficient available storage before starting the copying process.

The Examiner asserts that the above limitations are disclosed by Kataoka. Kataoka discloses a communication terminal device having an interrupt function. During the interruption process, if the user presses the copy key, the copying process is automatically started. (See S42, S43 in Fig. 2 of Kataoka) However, if the copy key is not pressed during the interruption process, it is determined whether printing based on the remaining capacity of the image memory should be executed. (See S46 in Fig. 2 of Kataoka) If the answer is yes, then it is determined whether the remaining capacity of the image memory is less than a prescribed value. (See S47 in Fig. 2 of Kataoka) If the vacant space in the memory is greater than the prescribed value, the program simply maintains the interruption process, by returning to S42. Eventually, the image memory will have vacant space less than the predetermined volume. It is then determined whether printable

image and data exist in the image memory. (See S48 in Fig. 2 of Kataoka) If yes, one page worth of image/data is printed from the printer, and then it is again determined whether the copy key is pressed. (See S49, S50 in Fig. 2 of Kataoka) Otherwise, the program simply maintains the interruption process, by returning to S42. The Examiner states the above limitations are taught by Kataoka because "whenever the copy interrupt key is pressed, the image memory can have sufficient amount to store the incoming data in order to prevent overflowing of the memory." However, in contrast to the claimed invention, during the entirety of the interruption process, copying is not initiated until the copy key is pressed, and the memory capacity check is never conducted before the copying initiates. The memory capacity check only occurs to determine whether to print one page of image from the image memory. Thus, the interrupt process of Kataoka does not wait until sufficient available storage area for executing the copy control processing is formed in the data storage means. Instead, the interrupt process of Kataoka waits for the pressing of the copy key. Thus, as explained above, a memory capacity check never occurs with respect to the copying processing. Therefore, Kataoka fails to determine whether there is enough memory to conduct the copy control processing after the copy key is pressed. Accordingly, Kataoka does not show or suggest at least the above limitations of the claimed invention.


In view of the above, claims 1 and 4 are patentable over Kataoka, at least for the above reasons. Claims 2 and 3 depend from claim 1, and claims 5 and 6 depend from claim 4. Thus, claims 2, 3, 5, and 6 are patentable over Kataoka for at least the same reasons as claims 1 and 4. Accordingly, withdrawal of this rejection is respectfully requested.

Conclusion

Applicant believes this reply is fully responsive to all outstanding issues and places this application in condition for allowance. If this belief is incorrect, or other issues arise, the Examiner is encouraged to contact the undersigned or his associates at the telephone number listed below. Please apply any charges not covered, or any credits, to Deposit Account No. 50-0591, under Order No. 04995/129001 from which the undersigned is authorized to draw.

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Respectfully submitted,

By  #45,079
Jonathan P. Osha THOMAS SCHEER
Registration No.: 33,986
OSHA · LIANG LLP
1221 McKinney St., Suite 2800
Houston, Texas 77010
(713) 228-8600
(713) 228-8778 (Fax)
Attorney for Applicant

Attachments